

chains used on the inclined planes. In April, 1830, tarred ropes were substituted for the chains. Freight was first regularly carried in 1833.

The road was extended to Archbald in 1846; in 1859 it was extended to Olyphant, and in that year the first passenger train

was run over it. The change from the strap rail to the T rail was made in 1858. At that time also the hemp or manila rope was abandoned and wire substituted. Its tracks extended over fifty-seven miles, and much of it ran through very picturesque scenes. It contained twenty-eight planes, the longest of which was No. 19, 2,680 feet. Shepherd's Crook was a spot that has aroused

the enthusiasm of thousands of travelers. It was a curve, having a radius of only one hundred feet. Part of it was on an embankment many feet above the valley.

Official notice of the abandonment of the Gravity road was posted in this city on October 28, 1898, and soon after what was one of the busiest lines and greatest attractions of this section ceased to exist.



REV. JONATHAN SOULE,  
First Minister in Carbondale.

#### THE FIRST CAR OF COAL.

The first carload of coal was shipped on October 9, 1829. The first coal was mined at the foot of Davies' or No. 28 plane, from the bed of the river, by diverting the river from its channel and running a level into the hill. The coal was run out on a wheelbarrow. This was called Ingram's level. In 1829 a tunnel was driven on the opposite side of the river at old No. 1 drift. This drift was worked till 1857. No. 2 drift, west of No. 1, was opened in 1830.

The Gravity Road machine shop was started in a small wooden building near the site of the present building, soon after 1831. This was burned in 1845, and replaced by another wooden structure. This was burned in June, 1857, when the present stone building was erected.

#### OUR EARLY SCHOOLS.

In 1831 two school buildings were erected on the sites of the present Presbyterian and Methodist churches. They contained one room each, and the teachers were Messrs. Erhart and B. G. Roots. In 1837, a third school, for advanced pupils, was located

on the spot where St. Rose hall now stands, and S. S. Benedict was secured as teacher.

Among the teachers in our schools from 1840 to 1851 were the following: John R. Fordham, Phillips Wilson, Miss Russell, Miss Mary Darte, now Mrs. James Thompson, who taught in the old log tavern, Miss Mary Vannan, Miss Harriet Jackson, H. C. Ensign, Miss E. Hubbard, Miss Sarah M. Shaffer, and Miss Mary Farrar:

An insight into the methods employed in the first schools and the personality of several early teachers, may be had from the following expression by G. R. Love: "All I will say of B. G. Roots is, that if he were living in this beginning of the twentieth century he would be arraigned for cruelty to children, convicted and punished. Our next schoolmaster, Mr. Erhart, was, however, a man of education, culture and ability."

G. W. Benedict, of Providence, in a most interesting letter on this subject, says:

"My first remembrance of a school house was that of the one which stood where the Sabbath school room of the Presbyterian church now is. Adjoining it was the hell tower from which the old cracked bell called to and from work and school and church, as well as for the bucket brigade in the frequent cases of fire.

"About 1846, in addition to the several good public schools, Carbondale citizens established an academic school known as the 'Carbondale Academy and Lackawanna Institute.' This institution was located in Temperance hall, corner of Church street and Salem avenue, and was patronized by most of the well-to-do families of the town. Its first principal was Henry J. Newell, with Miss Fannie Smith assistant

"Mr. Newell was succeeded as principal by C. D. Virgil, P. C. Gritman and Dr. Marsh. The building was destroyed by fire in the great conflagration in 1850, but the school was continued in the little building which stood on the Presbyterian church lot, and afterward in Pierson's hall, at the head of Church street. Of all the fine educators with which Carbondale schools have been blessed, probably Dr. Marsh and his good wife were among the very best.

"In 1855, Dr. Durkin, an able instructor, started an academic school in the Pierson residence on Terrace street, which flourished for several years."



THOMAS SWEET, M. D.  
First Doctor in Carbondale.